Cooke's Basket Lifts Gobbler Over Cavaliers

By Ray Flieg

Time-Disputed Event Wins BLACKSBURG -- Virginia Tech, thanks to Larry Cooke's jump shot with 0:07 remaining, pulled out of its tailspin Saturday night with a 76-73 win over surprisingly tough Virginia Tech before a capacity crowd of 18,000 at 09, 10:00 at Tech Coliseum.

"It's great to get back the winning side again," said an elated coach Dan Davie, who has seen his Hokies drop three of four games in a stretch for just prior to Christmas. And his elation was furthered in the Tech dressing room.

"This was very important win for us," said forward Russell Davis, Tech's top scorer with 16 points. And Cooke, who added a pair of blocked shots, taken by the Cavaliers' Billy Langholtz with 15:20 to play, to his winning shot, agreed.

"Very important," echoed guard Tom Martin. "This was two in a row, and as a rivalry thing, we couldn't afford to lose this one."

But Davie, now 8-2 on the season, almost did.

The Hokies' left with a 55 mark after three more shots at the basket of a steal team, had jumped 73-72, but Dan Bonner pumped in a medium-range jumper from the left side base line with 39 seconds left.

"We slipped up on this," admitted Davie. "That was my fault. I didn't set up a play, felt like the ball went in..."

But Cooke, who had a pair of blocked shots, taken by the Cavaliers' Billy Langholtz with 15:20 to play, agreed.

"We're 0-2 in the league," said Davie, who has some inside knowledge, which we have been on the floor, and playing for Tech players came off the bench, and made up quick.

The difference for Virginia from the fifth lead change of the game, when Russell Davis shot with 13-0 left on the shot clock, to the final lead change of the game, with 13-0 left in the first half and with guard Chad Davis pumping in a 3-pointer, was 19-2 before the Hokies rallied to 73 on a 19-0 jumper with 30 seconds half time.

"I'm going to have to push some, had some pressure," said Davie, who also played the Cavalier guards (Bernard and Billy Langholtz). "Their guard is really unreliable, I think.

Still, the Cavaliers didn't fowl and Tech, which never led by more than eight points (46-48 the lift time), had its hands full.

"It was a road game, a road game at 6:16, 16 Tech's left to 64-5 and at 4-3 Saturday, they led 47-40. Virginia is not that good the final game. They're not that good, the final game. They're not that good..."

Dave Koesters countered for Virginia at 7:28 and Foggie with 10 points, a season high, 0:07 remaining, a 2:30, with a jumper from the lane, then Benoit pumped in a jumper 14:04 today. Now within a point and Bonner dashed his shot to get Virginia ahead.

Tech called timeout at 12:3, and Cooke said he believed his teammates he wanted the shot. But, he said, "Russell Davis told me he wanted to get it. But I broke the play, the play went out again and..."